

UNCLASSIFIED

P840045-1661

P 46

8337656

Kenneth M. Duberstein

Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

Room 2/WH

White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20500

E-609

November 8, 1983

Dear Mr. Duberstein:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR #7

1-18/97

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
(X) EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
Exemptions 36
Exemptions

MR Cases Only:

EE Citations

() CLASSIFY as () S or ()

() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or ()

This is prompted by your expressed interest in the written requests by Senator Specter, Representative Fish, and possibly others, that the President issue a Presidential Directive concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

I'm writing in behalf of the Wallenberg Committee of Greater Philadelphia to let you know of (1) President Reagan's personal interest in Raoul Wallenberg's freedom; (2) the necessity that the language of such a presidential directive

at the language of PL 97-54 and President Reagan's signing statement; and (3) continuing Congressional and public interest in Raoul Wallenberg's freedom.

1. President Reagan's personal interest is reported in the attached Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report article (marked), which shows the President's direct responsibility for expeditious passage of PL 97-54. We also attach copies of President Reagan's references to Raoul Wallenberg on Feb. 2 and Apr. 11 of this year. (We have heard, but been unable to find confirmation from any printed source, that President Reagan has made a personal telephone appeal to the Soviet President for Raoul Wallenberg's freedom -- if your staff can conveniently verify this we would be grateful for the information).

2. The language of PL 97-54 (attached) is "all possible steps," and President Reagan's language at the signing ceremony (attached) is "we're going to do everything in our power."

The language of the Presidential Directive should follow

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

2

this expressed Congressional and Presidential intent rather than substitute unintended weakness (words such as "appropriate," "reasonable," "necessary," and so on). Obviously inappropriate, irrational, and needless steps are not going to be taken; the importance of "all possible" in the directive is to be true to Congressional and Presidential intent by making Wallenberg's freedom a priority for action by the relevant agencies instead of simply a stated concern.

Therefore we support the unmodified proposed presidential directive Senator Specter has offered (copy with his letter attached). Senator Specter's proposal follows the form of President Reagan's Presidential Directive of March 25, 1983 (Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, March 25, 1983 issue, at pp. 462-463).

3. October 20th House passage of a follow-up resolution on Raoul Wallenberg (attached), after an Oct. 5th letter to the President signed by 40 members of Congress (Congressional Record copy attached), follows an Aug. 3d oversight hearing on implementation of PL 97-54 that we expect to be the first of a series of such hearings. A copy of the many testifiers' statements should be available to you from Shirley Dawson of the House Subcomm. on Human Rights and International Organizations staff. And on Oct. 19th PBS broadcast nationwide a documentary on Wallenberg, "Hitler's No. 1 Enemy: Buried Alive" (attachments). The Advisory Board list in the attached Committee newsletter shows the range of tri-state religious and civic support for action to free Wallenberg, even before the documentary was shown.

The continuing Congressional interest and growing public awareness of Wallenberg will bring President Reagan's issuance of a presidential directive strong bipartisan Congressional and popular support; and Wallenberg's age -- 71 in August -- requires action without delay.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3

If you consult the President on this and discover he wants to act directly himself as well as issue a directive, please ask him in our behalf to consider a prisoner exchange for Wallenberg: for the East German (attachment) or the Bulgarian (attachment) just charged with spying in the U.S., for Cuban prisoners, for the 24 Soviets held in Mozambique (if, as seems likely from the attached news item, the captors will agree), or for others held by the U.S. or friendly foreign countries (the Committee has copies of many other recent news reports of Soviet and Soviet-bloc prisoners who might be exchanged).

Thank you for the interest you've already shown, and for your attention. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Sincerely,

UNCLASSIFIED